

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, NATO, TU, US

SUBJECT: ECEVIT COMMENTS AT NATO SUMMIT AND IN NEW YORK
TIMES INTERVIEW

1. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE CONCERNING MAY 30 NEW YORK TIMES
INTERVIEW WITH TURKISH PRIMIN ECEVIT TOOK PLACE AT NOON
PRESS BRIEFING MAY 30:

Q: HODDING, BERNIE QUOTES MR. ECEVIT AS SAYING THAT RE-
GARDLESS OF WHETHER HE GETS ARMS FROM THE UNITED STATES,
TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO NATO WILL BE REDUCED.

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FIRST, DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THAT?

TWO, WILL IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IN YOUR INCLINATION TO
LIFT THE EMBARGO AND, SECONDLY, ANY DIFFERENCE IN YOUR
ABILITY TO SEEK TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM CONGRESS TO DO
THIS?

A: ON THE THIRD QUESTION, I REALLY AM NOT A POLITICAL ANALYST. I DON'T KNOW.

ON THE SECOND QUESTION, WE OBVIOUSLY BELIEVE, FOR REASONS WE HAVE STRESSED BEFORE WHICH SIMPLY ARE NOT PERTINENT TO

THE FIRST PART OF YOUR QUESTION, THAT THE EMBARGO SHOULD BE RAISED; AND WE INTEND TO PURSUE THAT.

ON THE FIRST, I DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR COMMENT ON WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD TO SAY. WE OBVIOUSLY HAVE TALKED TO HIM AND WILL CONTINUE TO TALK TO HIM. HE'S HERE AT A NATO MEETING; AND HIS REMARKS THIS MORNING, I THINK AT THE NATO MEETING, SPOKE ABOUT HIS OWN CONCERNS ABOUT NATO.

2. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE CONCERNING ECEVIT'S COMMENTS AT OPENING CEREMONIES OF NATO SUMMIT MAY 30 TOOK PLACE AT MAY 30 PRESS BRIEFING HELD BY SECRETARY VANCE:

Q: MR. SECRETARY, HOW DO YOU SEE THE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ABOUT THE RUSSIAN THREAT, AND DO YOU THINK THAT TURKEY IS GOING MORE NEUTRAL?

SECRETARY VANCE: WELL, THERE WAS NO INDICATION AT ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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FROM THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER FROM ANYTHING THAT I HEARD THAT HE HAD ANY INTENTION OF LEAVING NATO. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF NATO AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MANY OF ITS ACTIVITIES. HE DID EXPRESS HIS CONCERNS ABOUT CERTAIN FACTORS WHICH HE MADE PUBLIC THE OTHER DAY, BUT IT DID NOT SEEM IN ANY WAY TO ME TO UNDERMINE THE FACT THAT HE FELT NATO WOULD BE A VERY IMPORTANT AND INDEED VITAL ORGANIZATION.

Q: ABOUT THE RUSSIAN THREAT. ABOUT THE RUSSIAN THREAT, MR. SECRETARY.

THE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF TURKEY ABOUT THE RUSSIAN THREAT TO TURKEY.

SECRETARY VANCE: WELL, THE PRESIDENT HASN'T, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, COMMENTED SPECIFICALLY ON THE RUSSIAN THREAT TO TURKEY, BUT I THINK HE HAS INDICATED THAT HE THINKS THAT WHAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN DOING IN EUROPE IS INDEED A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN. IF YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THE MILITARY EXPENDITURES WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE AND WHAT THE FORCES

ARE OVER THE LAST EIGHT TO TEN YEARS, IT'S FAR IN EXCESS OF WHAT IS NEEDED TO MEET THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND, AND THE PRESIDENT HAS VERY FREELY AND OPENLY SAID THAT HE CONSIDERS THAT TO BE A THREAT. I THINK THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VIEW WITH RESPECT TO WHAT THE OVERALL INTENTIONS OF THE SOVIETS MAY BE.

3. FOLLOWING EXCHANGES ALSO OCCURRED AT SECRETARY'S MAY 30 PRESS BRIEFING:

Q: ABOUT PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S INTERVIEW IN THE NEW YORK TIMES THIS MORNING, SAYING THAT EVEN IF THE ARMS EMBARGO IS LIFTED, TURKEY'S COMMITMENT TO NATO WILL BE REDUCED BECAUSE HE DOESN'T SEE THE RUSSIAN THREAT AS ALL THE OTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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NATO ALLIES SEE IT. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THAT,PLEASE?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO. I THINK HE'D BETTER COMMENT ON HIS VIEWS AND AMPLIFY ON THEM. HE WILL BE HERE IN WASHINGTON. I KNOW HE WILL BE MEETING WITH THE PRESS AGAIN. I BELIEVE HE IS GOING TO SPEAK BEFORE THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB MEETING ONE OF THESE DAYS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND I THINK YOU'D BETTER PUT THAT QUESTION TO HIM.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, THE HOPE WAS EXPRESSED MANY TIMES FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. IS THERE ANY NEW CONCRETE ELEMENT FOR EXPRESSING NEW HOPES, AND PARTICULARLY CONCERNING THE CYPRUS PROBLEM?

SECRETARY VANCE: LET ME SAY THAT I WAS VERY PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS HAVE MET AND INTEND TO MEET AGAIN. I THINK THIS IS A PROGRESSIVE STEP, AN ENCOURAGING STEP, AND WE WILL ALL BE FOLLOWING WHAT HAPPENS WITH GREAT INTEREST. CHRISTOPHER

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